State of California—Health and Human Services Agency

Department of Health Services

SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

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California
Department of
Health Services

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Dear MCAH Providers and Supporters:

The Primary Care and Family Health Division (PCFH), Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Branch is pleased to announce a name change to one that more precisely reflects the mission of the organization. The Branch will now be Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH). This change reflects the work and commitment of the organization in the provision of vital health, education, and case management services to our adolescent population through the Adolescent Family Life Program, the Adolescent Sibling Pregnancy Prevention Program, School Health Connections and our partnership with the California Adolescent Health Collaborative. The new name for the branch became effective on October 13, 2004.

The health and well being of California teens has a major impact on the overall social and economic health of our state. Today's teens are tomorrow's work force, parents, and leaders and their future is shaped by the opportunities we create for them today. The health issues of teens and young adults are easy to overlook because they are not, for the most part, acute illnesses or chronic diseases. Instead, they are largely behavioral and social issues. Addressing these issues requires change at multiple levels—from service delivery to funding priorities, to community resources and environments, and more fundamentally, to the behavior and attitudes of California adults.

Our challenge is to ensure that all of California's teens have the support they need for healthy development and a smooth transition to adulthood. By adding adolescents to the MCH Branch name to form the MCAH Branch, the state is recognizing and providing the assurance that we are significantly investing in the future of our youth, and it also reflects the work that is currently being done by the Branch.

Sincerely,

Susann J. Steinberg, M.D., Chief
Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Branch

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